

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00391

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, GW
SUBJECT: LOS - REPORT TO GROUP OF FIVE AND SELECTED
MARITIME POWERS ON PROGRESS OF ARCHIPELAGO TALKS

REF: STATE 281347; PFUND/MOORE LETTERS OF NOV. 8, 27,
1974

1. EMBASSY OFFICER PASSED INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 2
OF MANILA'S 14682 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 3 TO AMBASSA-
DOR KNOKE OF FRG/LOS DELEGATION. IN RESPONSE TO
OFFICER'S STATEMENT OF US INTEREST THAT MARITIME STATES
MAINTAIN COMMON POSITION IN ARCHIPELAGO AND STRAITS
NEGOTIATIONS, KNOKE SAID THAT FRG IS SKEPTICAL OF
ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT AND THAT HE COULD NOT COMMIT
FRG TO SUPPORT IT. HE SAID THAT DESPITE PRECAUTIONS,
FRG BELIEVED THAT CONCEPT COULD RESULT IN IMPOSITION
OF UNDESIRABLE RESTRICTIONS AND BURDENS ON TRANSITING
STATES' VESSELS.

2. REFERRING TO THE GROUP OF 17 CONSULTATIONS ON
ECONOMIC AND POLLUTION ZONES AS AN EXAMPLE, KNOKE
WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR
THIS GROUP OR THE EVENSEN GROUP STATES TO CONSULT ON
THE ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT, THE EMERGING DETAILS OF ITS
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DEFINITION, AND THE PARTICULAR STATES TO WHICH THE

CONCEPT WOULD APPLY DEPENDING ON DEFINITION VARIABLES.
EMBASSY OFFICER UNDERTOOK TO PASS THIS SUGGESTION TO
THE DEPARTMENT.

3. CONCERNING DEEP SEA MINING VENTURES, KNOKE VOLUNTEERED THAT FRG HAS BEEN GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO THE FORM AND ROLE THAT AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN. FRG IS MOVING TOWARD VIEW THAT IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE WITH OPEC CONTROL OF OIL PRICES, AMOUNTING TO PRICE DICTATION, FRG AND OTHER STATES MUST PROTECT THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST IN ASSURING ACCESS TO DEEP SEA BED MINERALS. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT UN AND OPEC POINTED OUT NEED FOR ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD NOT GIVE STATES IN GROUP OF 77 ABILITY VIA INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO DICTATE CONDITIONS OR PRICES FOR GRANTING OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DEEP SEA BED MINING VENTURES. KNOKE SPOKE OF PROVISION FOR SOME FORM OF JOINT VENTURE OF TECHNOLOGICALLY CAPABLE STATES WITH INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY AS POSSIBLE MEANS FOR ACHIEVING ASSURED ACCESS BY SUCH STATES TO SEA BED MINERALS.

4. FLORIN, KNOKE'S ASSISTANT, STATED THAT WHILE HE BEING REASSIGNED IN MARCH 1975, METTERNICH FROM FRG UN MISSION IS BEING PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO FRG/LOS DELEGATION, AND ZIMMERMAN OF FOREIGN OFFICE'S PLANNING OFFICE IS BEING ASSIGNED TO LOS DELEGATION AS ITS PERMANENT BACK-UP MAN IN BONN.
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